



PUBLISHED DAILY AND TRI-WEEKLY BY
EDGAR SNOWDEN.

ALEXANDRIA:
FRIDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 18, 1859.

The Union says:—"The ratification of the Cass-Yrissari treaty is regarded as a triumph of the administration, since it insures rights to us upon the Isthmus equal to those guaranteed to England by the Osceola transaction. This was all that Mr. Buchanan asked. He also has the gratification of feeling that Sir William Gore Ouseley has faithfully carried out (so far as he has gone) the good understanding existing between our Government and the British Ministry, in respect to the adjustment of differences concerning international affairs at the Isthmus. The treaty will probably not reach here in time to be laid before the Senate this session, as the messenger failed to come by the last steamer."

As was seen in yesterday's Gazette, the House of Representatives has laid on the table—killed, for the present—the bills establishing territorial governments in Arizona, Dacotha, and Jefferson territories. The Washington correspondent of the Baltimore Sun says:—"A number of circumstances concur, at present, to prevent the passage of these bills. Any increase of executive patronage or expenditure is much deprecated, and, besides, the southern members think that free States are growing up in the West fast enough, without the application of any forcing legislation."

Senator Gwin proposes, it is said, introducing an amendment to the army appropriation bill, providing that the five mounted regiments now employed on the frontier shall be posted across the plains to California, and that it shall be their duty to convey the overland letter mail. This can be done by despatching from post to post, three or four men each mail, and whilst it will not add a dollar's additional expense, it will save the large outlay now paid for the transportation of that mail, practice the army as scouts, and afford protection to emigrants.

The House of Representatives has passed the bill granting public lands to the several States which may provide Colleges for the benefit of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts. The amendments of the Senate were all agreed to, and a motion to lay on the table was rejected, by a vote of 108 to 95. We believe all the Virginia members voted against this bill. It will, it is thought, be immediately vetoed by the President.

The speech of Mr. Thompson, of Ky., in the Senate, on Cuba, is said to have been one of the most effective made in Congress during the present session. It was full of wit and good sense. An abstract of it will be found in another column. In this connection, too, we would refer to the comments of the Washington States on Mr. Benjamin's speech in relation to Cuba. They seem to be unanswerable.

The Senate in Executive session has ratified the Dacotha Indian treaty, by which an extensive tract of country is secured to the United States. The motion which was made last session to reconsider the vote by which the treaty with the Seneca Indians at Tonawanda, was ratified, having been withdrawn, the treaty is now in force. The Senate have rejected the nomination of Emory D. Potter as Collector at the port of Toledo.

The President, in recognition of the satisfactory manner in which John Nugent, esq., discharged his special mission to British Columbia and Vancouver's Island, recently tendered him the appointment of minister to Bogota, which he has declined, intending to take an active part in the politics of California during the summer, his friends having induced him to become a candidate for Governor of that State!

The New York correspondent of the National Intelligencer says:—"The proceedings of the Whig Convention at Richmond, have awakened considerable interest amongst conservative men here, and the resolutions adopted meet with decided favor. The movement in looking upon as the inauguration of national party determined to ignore sectional issues in all their bearings."

John S. Turner, esq., the presiding justice of the County Court of Rappahannock, has resigned that position. Mr. Turner is a most estimable gentleman, worthy and well qualified; and the Court passed resolutions expressive of their regret at the loss of his valuable services.

The House of Representatives, on Wednesday, considered the Senate's amendments to the Indian Appropriation bill, some of which were concurred in, and others negatived; so that the bill again goes to the Senate.

Absalom Jordan, esq., has been nominated as the Democratic candidate for the legislature from Rappahannock County. Mr. Hockley, the late efficient Delegate, is the Whig candidate.

The Select Committee of the House of Representatives, on the arrangement of the Hall, have reported unanimously in favor of removing the present desks from the hall of the House of Representatives.

The Democrats in Loudoun county, have nominated as their candidates for the Legislature, Josiah B. Taylor, for the State Senate, and Col. T. V. B. Osborn and Francis M. Carter, for the House of Delegates.

It is gratifying to find that our Southern railroads are generally prosperous, and paying well. This is especially the case in Georgia, a good deal so in North Carolina, and getting to be so in North Carolina.

Dr. Decatur Manton, of Loudoun, an estimable and esteemed citizen, died a few days ago.

The Commissioner of Patents has just written out at length his reasons for overruling the application of Mr. McCormick for an extension of his patent of 1845, for "improvement in reaping machines." He says that "the patentee realized for his patents of 1845 and 1847 the sum of \$1,247,915, and adds, in conclusion, "yet were it permitted to embrace in its estimate the value of the reaping machine as an entirety, I might hesitate to pronounce his (Mr. McCormick's) reward sufficient, great as it has been; but remembering that in 1845 it was already in practical, successful operation, and its essential element public property, or the property of other patentees, and that its crowning excellence, as constructed by the applicant—on the rakers' seat of 1857—still belongs to him, and can be enjoyed by the country only upon such terms as he may dictate, and confining, therefore, as I am compelled to do, my estimate to the isolated features patented in 1845, I am constrained to say that for this improvement, the public has made to the applicant not only a reasonable, but a most abundant remuneration."

G. Zahn, esq., and wife, Lancaster, Pa., celebrated on Saturday last, the fiftieth anniversary of their wedding, by a grand family reunion. The Lancaster Express says:—"About one hundred persons, including the children, grand-children, great-grand-children and other relatives of the venerable host and hostess, were present, and the scene was one well calculated to make the hearts of the old folks swell with gratitude, as they contemplated the blessings which had followed and waited upon them since they embarked together, for weal or woe, upon the journey of life."

The Bostonians are not pleased with Powers's statue of Webster, recently received from Leghorn. The Transcript says:—"Before the bronze statue of Webster, by Powers, was received, there was a desire to have it placed in the most public and prominent position that could be secured for the purpose in Boston. Since the lank figure has been seen by our citizens, there is no objection to its being buried from the public eye in the United States court-house or any place rarely visited by citizens or strangers."

The Haytian fugitive Souleouge, though driven from his empire, has managed, during his reign, to lay an anchor to windward. It is stated that he has \$500,000 securely invested in Europe, and owns more than a hundred houses in Hayti, besides having a large amount of money and valuables with him.

There was a grand time in Brooklyn, on Monday night—the event being the marriage of one of the black waiters of the steamship Empire City, to a white girl! The bridal party consisted of seven black men and their wives, all of whom are white women!

Virginia News.
We learn from the Lynchburg Republican that Capt. William M. Watkins, one of the oldest and most respectable citizens of Charlotte county, died a few days ago. The deceased was for many years in the Legislature in his early life, and ranked as an able member of that body.

Dr. Moorman, of Greenbrier county, has in press a new work upon the Mineral Springs of the South and West, and it will be issued before the commencement of the usual summer travel to the Springs for health or pleasure.

There is a boy living with his parents, named Shell, about five miles west of Harrisonburg, Va., aged twelve years, who weighs 233 pounds. He is not over the ordinary height of boys of that age.

The last Clarke Journal says:—"We are authorized to announce Robert Y. Conrad, of Frederick, a candidate for the office of Judge of the Court of Appeals, for the Third Judicial Section."

Miss Rebecca Christian, died at Richmond, on Wednesday, in the 90th year of her age.

Prince George's County, Md.

TALBERT'S CASE.—Wm. T. Talbert, under indictment for the homicide of Goldsborough, has been removed to the jail at Howard, to which county his case was sent for trial. The Court will meet there, we believe, on the third Monday in March.

RE-ARRESTED.—The negro man, Charles Norton, one of those who broke open and escaped from the jail at this place, recently, has, we learn, been arrested again in the upper part of the county, and lodged in jail at Washington.

NOLLE PROSEQUI.—In the case of negro George, slave of John T. Berry, esq., and of Tom, slave of Fielder Bowie, esq., the parties charged with the robbery of Mr. Plater's store, in Nottingham, long since, the Government has, we learn, granted a *nolle prosequi*, upon condition that the negroes "shall be sold to the South, and beyond the limits of the State."

NARROW ESCAPE.—As Mr. Carter A. Sansbury, of this village, was hunting some days since, a double-barrelled gun which he carried exploded in his hands. The barrels were burst asunder, one of them being carried off so as not to be found, and the other, much bent and twisted, passed over his head. The piece was broken to atoms, in fact, by the force of the explosion, and Mr. S. fortunately escaped no other injury than an unimportant flesh wound in one arm.

TYPHOID FEVER.—Mr. W. S. Woodson, of Anne Arundel county, has lost two slaves by this virulent fever, and the Annapolis Republican states that he has at the present time, fourteen more sick with it.—*Planter's Ad.*

BLADENBURG MILL.—We learn that C. C. Hyatt has sold his mill, one-half, in the fine mill at Bladenburg, to Albert B. Berry, for the sum of \$10,000. We wish the new firm abundant success. The enterprise of the new partner deserves it. The flour from this mill is, we believe, not surpassed by any of the most celebrated brands in this country.—*Marlboro' Gaz.*

Horrible Murder in New Orleans.
On Wednesday evening of last week, a woman living next door to a house on Dauphin street, occupied by a Spaniard named Pepe Fuentes, and his mistress, Maria Rodriguez, a young Mexican woman, heard a scuffle, a blow, and the fall, as of a person upon the floor. Her suspicions being excited, she summoned a watchman, who proceeded immediately to open the door, and a horrible spectacle presented itself.

Lying upon the floor, waivering in blood, with her clothes torn, was the woman Mary Rodriguez. Upon a closer examination it was found that her skull had been dreadfully fractured with hatchet, which was lying by, and a piece of the skull, of considerable size, adhering to it. Her throat had also been cut and hacked in a horrible manner yet life was not extinct, and the poor woman lay there groaning piteously. A little while, who was able to converse a little, stated that the deed was committed by Fuentes without provocation on her part. The murderer has so far escaped arrest, but the police are on his track.

Mr. Benjamin's Speech on the Cuban Bill.

An attentive perusal of Mr. Benjamin's speech on the Thirty Million bill, discloses other and more fatal fallacies than were observed in its delivery.

For instance: the orator invoked the sympathies of humanity for the Cubans, because of the oppressions they endure under the rule of Spain; and yet, if with the deliberate purpose of neutralizing his appeal, so refusing his own argument, he convicts the same Cubans of atrocities in the treatment of their subjects for which there is no parallel in the annals of tyranny. "It is a well authenticated fact," he declares, "that the whole laboring population of the island is exhausted in a single generation." Volumes of invective could not represent the cruelty of the Cubans with stronger effect than is achieved by this simple statement. And it is these remorseless slave-masters, for whose advantage Mr. Benjamin invokes the United States, who violate all the safe-guards of public law, trample upon the rights of nations, and abandon that policy of non-intervention which is the tradition and security of the Union.

Again: Mr. Benjamin concludes from an exhaustive induction, that out of the American confederacy Cuba cannot possibly maintain an adequate supply of labor—not from the natural increase of its slave population, for they are annihilated in a "single generation," not from the importation of Colored apprentices, for that importation is a disastrous failure; nor yet from the African slave trade, against which the Powers of Christendom are united in active protest and resistance. But Cuba must have a sufficiency of compulsory labor, or else become a desolate and depopulated waste. Such supply may be realized after annexation to this country, but only by the deduction of so many negroes from our own border States. And pray what will it avail for the interests of the South, if Virginia is annihilated for the perpetuation of slavery in Cuba?

Mr. Benjamin intimates—the idea is too preposterous to be clearly developed—that annexation would induce the planters of Cuba to adopt the more provident and humane system prevalent in this country. Why then rather than now? It is not in the nature of the Spanish master to be considerate and indulgent. Besides, Mr. Benjamin informs us that the ratio of males to females among the slave inhabitants of the island, is as six to one; and that they all perish together in a single generation. Under these conditions it is palpably impossible that the productive powers of the slave population in Cuba can suffice for an adequate supply of labor.

The most essential and inexcusable error in Mr. Benjamin's argument,—an error which vitiates not only his logic but his political philosophy as well,—is involved in these extraordinary declarations:

"Now, Mr. President, bringing this discourse to a close, I desire to say, in a few words, what my view is in relation to the policy of this country. I would propose, as the President proposes, the purchase of the Island of Cuba from the Government of Spain. If that be refused, if it be supposed that Spanish pride or Spanish dignity is involved in the proposition to such an extent as to make it impossible for them to cede it, I would then say to Spain, 'if you will not cede the Island to us, grant independence to your subjects there, and we will pay you a reasonable equivalent for the abandonment of your revenues, and make settlement hereafter with the people of Cuba for our advances.' If this offer be again refused, then let us announce to Spain in advance, that whenever opportunity shall offer we are ready and resolved to offer to the people of Cuba the same aid that England offered to the other Spanish colonies; to secure alliance, offensive and defensive, which France so nobly tendered us in the hour of our darkest peril. Tell her that we will repair the wrong by her done to the generation now passing away in Cuba, when we impeded their efforts for gaining their independence, by affording to the present generation our aid, countenance, and assistance."

As Mr. Benjamin was the retained advocate of Spain in her relentless prosecution of the gallant men who essayed the emancipation of Cuba, he may well feel some compunctions of conscience, and some regret, that the noblest of men, who would have been the pillars of the Republic, should have been so nobly tendered us in the hour of our darkest peril. Tell her that we will repair the wrong by her done to the generation now passing away in Cuba, when we impeded their efforts for gaining their independence, by affording to the present generation our aid, countenance, and assistance."

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A sacrifice, we call it,—for surely no government can adopt the policy seriously recommended in the above paragraph, without an utter surrender of all honor and all principle. Upon what pretence, right or wrong, may the United States dictate the independence of Cuba? Is not the island under the dominion of Spain? Is not her property by every title beyond dispute? Is she responsible to us for the government of her possessions? Wherefore, then, this suggestion from an American Senator? With as much propriety may England or France, uttering protestations of liberty and humanity, imperatively advise the United States to emancipate the slaves of the South. Never was the stigma of intervention proclaimed in so offensive a form.

It is a subversive of the independence of nations; it breaks through and breaks down all the barriers of civil society; in short, it resolves public law into the rule of the strong arm. Obviously, no government is secure; the weak will become the prey of the powerful; and nations will be precipitated into universal and exterminating war.

Is statesmanship extinct? Is there no man in the public councils who is able to rise superior to the passions of the mob and the intrigues of the caucus? Are they all alike narrow of vision and grovelling in their aspirations? When we observe the insensibility to the obligations of political morality, so conspicuous among the responsible rulers of the country, we almost despair of the republic.—Nothing but an abiding confidence in the virtue of the people and an undoubting conviction of the destiny of the Union, could reassure the patriot in the midst of the vice and folly which he has so much occasion to deplore in the conduct of the men who control the government.—*Wash. States.*

Retrenchment and Reform.
Ever since we can remember—indeed, it began before we can remember—the Democratic party have been retrenching and reforming, until they have retrenched the annual expenses of the government from \$13,000,000, under John Q. Adams, to nearly \$100,000,000, under Buchanan, and still they are retrenching and reforming! Shall we never have enough of these retrenchments and reforms of the *Union*? Every time we try of the *Union* who said *every time* he tried to taper off, he some how or other always got the *Union* and foremost and tapered on.—*Richmond Whig.*

Opium Eating.

Are we not in some danger of becoming a nation of opium-eaters, is a question which is beginning to be seriously discussed among the thoughtful people. The importation of this drug so pernicious to the human system, yet so valuable as a medicine, is rapidly on the increase, and its sale in every drug-shop in England and its use in every drug-shop in the United States has long been known as the bane of literary men and the higher circles of society. But with us it has very extensively and fatally reached all classes and all ages. Philadelphia Ledger.

The Cuban Bill.

The Senate on Wednesday, took up the bill making appropriations to facilitate the acquisition of the Island of Cuba by negotiation.

Mr. Thompson, of Kentucky, addressed the Senate in opposition to the bill. He objected to its very title. It intimated that the President wanted a "facility," which facility was to consist of money. How was it to be applied? The whole scheme was filled with uncalculated for. Cuba was not well calculated for extension lands, but it would drain the adjacent States of the South of the best portion of their citizens. New Orleans was now a great *entrepot*, a place for transshipment, and the tendency of annexation would be to build up Havana at the expense of New Orleans, which would shiver in proportion. The President knew very well that Spain was not willing to trade for Cuba, and what sort of Christian humanity was it for the President, having found the sort of Spain, to build up Havana at the expense of New Orleans, and constantly "jacking" at it. Poor Spain had no peace of her life; if she had perhaps she could be induced to trade. What was the use of buying Cuba when they would not own either the soil or the negroes? They would get only the sovereignty, which meant the expense of keeping off pirates, and putting generally this youngest child of the family.

He regarded the proposition to annex Canada as monstrous. When the time came that he had to be overborne here by men from Cuba, from Nova Scotia, and from the Straits of the Union would break in two just as the Atlantic cable did, simply because it was too long. Cuba had got to be Americanized, as the Louisiana purchase, was by the influx of young and enterprising American citizens. The Cubans might know very well from the example of Louisiana that very soon after annexation they would be rooted out—eaten up as the blue rats are by the Norway rats. Cuba was now said to be panting for liberty; if annexed, the Cubans would be panting for life.

He opposed the Pacific railroad project, which he considered, in connection with the Cuban scheme, only a bait for the game for the Presidency in 1860. It had been proposed that the Americans should "see" the Administration's one Pacific railroad "and go to better." The true policy of this country was to build up and consolidate our own internal interests—take of what we have got rather than seek to get more. He was opposed to fostering and promoting the filibuster spirit of the country, and had a very poor opinion indeed of these strutting, penniless adventurers known as filibusters. He did not believe that either France or England would or would seek to obtain possession of Cuba. The ambition of the French Emperor was turned in altogether different directions. If England wanted Cuba, in his opinion she would take it in spite of us, especially if she were backed by France. When we came to fighting England, it would be no little Indian skirmish or Mexican running fight. But the ambition of England and the prosperity of that Empire depended upon events on the other side of the world. If Cuba was given to us today the vast fleet of England might take it away from us, or starve us out. It would prove a piece of weakness to take such an extent as to make it impossible for them to cede it, I would then say to Spain, "if you will not cede the Island to us, grant independence to your subjects there, and we will pay you a reasonable equivalent for the abandonment of your revenues, and make settlement hereafter with the people of Cuba for our advances." If this offer be again refused, then let us announce to Spain in advance, that whenever opportunity shall offer we are ready and resolved to offer to the people of Cuba the same aid that England offered to the other Spanish colonies; to secure alliance, offensive and defensive, which France so nobly tendered us in the hour of our darkest peril. Tell her that we will repair the wrong by her done to the generation now passing away in Cuba, when we impeded their efforts for gaining their independence, by affording to the present generation our aid, countenance, and assistance."

This bill was calculated to create a rupture between us and England and France. This Government should take warning by the respectable old Virginia gentleman who was "broke" by paying taxes on too much land. We had better pay the debts we have already. We were saved in California by the God-sent of the gold discoveries, but in buying Cuba there would be no chance for any thing of the kind. There was no God-sent left there. He regarded the Ostend manifesto as a delusion intended only to keep the Gulf States in good humor. Cuba had not gratified in such this way since that manifesto, and never would if the Cubans understood how the Americans would take warning by the respectable old Virginia gentleman who was "broke" by paying taxes on too much land. We had better pay the debts we have already. We were saved in California by the God-sent of the gold discoveries, but in buying Cuba there would be no chance for any thing of the kind. There was no God-sent left there. 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